

To: Robin, George[Robin.George@epa.gov]
From: Robin, George
Sent: Mon 3/28/2016 9:14:32 PM
Subject: (Location) RE: "HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: EPA lags on drinking water oversight -- GAO "

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From: Robin, George
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 2:03 PM
To: R9-Deep <R9Deep@epa.gov>
Cc: Rao, Kate <Rao.kate@epa.gov>
Subject: "HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: EPA lags on drinking water oversight -- GAO "

fyi, I don't know why the reporter entitled this article as if to encapsulate or focus on "hydraulic fracturing" but otherwise, you may well recall the GAO interviews across HQ and various regions & states a year or two ago (I remember one conf. call was when we were still on the 12th floor).

Just from a quick read for instance, from page 4:

"...We interviewed EPA headquarters, EPA Region 9, and California officials regarding the deficiencies in California's program, the agreed-upon improvement plan, and EPA oversight of California's progress. A summary of the deficiencies found by EPA and California, and California's plans to improve its program, can be found in appendix II. Because EPA determined in July 2014 that California's program was not in compliance with state and EPA requirements, we chose not to include California in our detailed analysis...."

George

<http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2016/03/28/stories/1060034709>

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: EPA lags on drinking water oversight -- GAO

Robin Bravender, E&E reporter

Published: Monday, March 28, 2016

U.S. EPA isn't keeping proper tabs on whether drinking water wells are sufficiently protected from hydraulic fracturing, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office.

"EPA has not consistently conducted oversight activities necessary to assess whether state and EPA-managed programs are protecting underground sources of drinking water," according to the GAO.

The report found that EPA's data weren't specific enough to determine whether water protection programs managed by EPA or states were meeting their annual inspection goals. GAO also found that state and EPA-managed programs didn't report data on violations completely or consistently.

GAO recommended -- among other things -- that EPA require programs to report well-specific inspection data, clarify guidance on enforcement data reporting and analyze the resources needed to oversee programs.

EPA generally agreed with the report's findings, according to GAO, but does not plan to require well-specific data or analyze needed resources.

[Click here](#) to read the report.....(see attached)